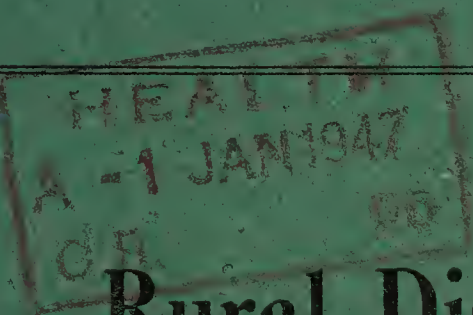


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Rural District of Meriden.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1945,

BY

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington Spa :

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August, 1946.

To the Meriden Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith the Report for 1945, this is the 27th Annual Report I have presented to you.

As instructed by the Ministry of Health, the Report is only a short statement of fact. The restrictions with respect to paper and printing still remain, and it will not be possible this time to give all the details of activities during the past year.

With many thanks for much kindness on the part of the members of the Council and my colleagues.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,
Medical Officer of Health.

Meriden Rural District.

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1945	...	...	33,110
Birth Rate	...	...	19.5
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	30
Death Rate	...	...	9.3
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="font-size: 2em; margin-right: 10px;">{</div> <div> From Sepsis ... 1 ,, other causes — </div> </div>		
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	46
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			40
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	120
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	1
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	2

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

Public Health Officers.—Unchanged.

Laboratory Facilities.—Bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria	4	43	47
Enteric Fever...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	6	28	34
			81

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.—

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.—Table I. gives a summary of inspections.

WATER. (1) 54 samples of water were submitted for chemical analysis to the Analyst, and eight for bacteriological examination. 20 were of good quality, 12 unsatisfactory, and 30 condemned. No complaints were made as to quantity, except in respect of private piped supplies and odd wells.

(ii) One chemical analysis only of main supply was made, and that was passed.

(iii) Contamination of Pipes Supplies. No comment is called for.

(iv) Wells were dealt with by cleansing and re-sampling, and in 6 cases town water laid on.

(v) Houses with supplies from public mains (a) direct to houses, number 6,328, and (b) by means of standpipes, about 100.

D. HOUSING.

The Council in April adopted the Standard of Fitness for working-class houses which had been prepared by the Warwickshire Rural Housing Advisory Committee, and the Survey asked for by the Minister was in progress during the year. The general situation has deteriorated during the year, as service men have begun to return to their homes and separate accommodation is required by the newly created families.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Foodstuffs condemned included 1 pig, 3 sheep, 606lbs. fish, 49 dozen eggs, 48lbs. bacon, and 45lbs. cheese.

Premises were visited during the year, and registration and satisfactory conditions enforced under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, in relation to fish frying, making of ice-cream, sausage and cooked meats.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1937.

	Smallpox	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1938 ...	—	54	36	—	57	—	4
1939 ...	—	41	39	—	42	—	5
1940 ...	—	34	62	2	55	1	7
1941 ...	—	60	47	4	73	—	2
1942 ...	—	33	55	—	56	—	4
1943 ...	—	18	122	2	91	1	3
1944 ...	—	16	60	—	51	—	9
1945 ...	—	15	35	—	51	—	13

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1945.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—Immunisation has continued during the year, and in all at the end of 1945 4,258 children had been treated in the schools and 1,917 either privately or at Infant Welfare Centres, giving a grand total up to December 31st, 1945, of 6,175.

School Closures.—None.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE—PERIODS	NEW CASES.						DEATHS.					
	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.		
	M. F.		M. F.		M. F.		M. F.		M. F.		M. F.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
15	5	3	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
25	3	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
35	4	2	—	1	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—
45	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	14	10	2	3	5	11	1	1	—	—	—	—

Treatment.—14 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, 9 were discharged.

The following table shows the incidence and deaths from Tuberculosis since 1926 (for 20 years) :—

Tuberculosis.

	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932
Cases ...	26	34	31	33	33	23	21
Deaths ...	20	13	12	23	16	9	5
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Cases ...	36	21	35	27	26	19	54
Deaths ...	18	12	16	7	12	6	17
	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	
Cases ...	35	40	36	49	51	29	
Deaths ..	18	18	19	13	20	18	

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Copies of this Report have been received and kept for reference.

TABLE I.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF THE SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1945.

				Inspections and Observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances Abated after Notices.
					Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools	...	...	...	1490	8	68	76
Lodging Houses	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	57	—	—	—
Cowsheds	...	...	...	445	—	—	—
Bakehouses	...	...	...	9	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	35	—	—	—
Canal Boats	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	...	43	12	31	43
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	...	5	—	5	5
Water-closets	...	...	...	48	2	46	48
House Drainage	...	...	...	89	7	82	89
Water Supply	...	...	...	381	5	—	5
Pigsties	...	...	...	3	—	—	3
Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	6	—	2	2
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	140	1	65	66
Various Inspections	...	...	...	1659	—	—	—
New Buildings	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	...	...	4420	35	299	337

	No.
Drain tests: Other than Water	—
Unwholesome Meat condemned	349lbs.
Samples of Food taken for Analysis (Milk)	—
Samples of Food found adulterated	—
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	62
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use	30

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding, etc., Disinfected or Destroyed	...	—
Houses Disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease	...	85
Schools ditto ditto ditto	...	—

F. T. KENYON, Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1945 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1939	29,590	514	17.5	29	55	281	9.5
1940	30,830	538	17.4	32	59	408	13.2
1941	34,210	564	16.5	35	59	377	10.6
1942	34,510	600	17.4	25	42	321	9.3
1943	34,310	667	19.4	30	45	321	9.4
1944	33,870	679	20.0	30	44	337	9.9
1945	33,110	649	19.5	30	46	309	9.3

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1945.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1945.
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

			Live Births	Still Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	...	...	16.1	0.46	11.4	46
126 Great Towns, including London			19.1	0.58	13.5	54
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	19.2	0.53	12.3	43
London	...	...	15.7	0.40	13.8	53

TABLE III.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1945.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox										
Plague										
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	15	1	6	4	2	1	1	.....	15	1
Erysipelas	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	4	1	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever	35	1	10	20	.....	4	.....	.....	22	.....
Typhus Fever										
Enteric Fever										
Pneumonia	51	4	6	5	3	7	15	11	.....	8
Malaria										
Dysentery										
Puerperal Pyrexia	13	.....	.....	.....	6	7	.....	.....	.....	1
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	3	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Poliomyelitis										
Encephalitis Lethargica										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Polio-Encephalitis										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	24	.....	1	1	8	11	2	1	.....	15
Other forms of Tuberculosis	5	...	.....	3	1	1	.....	...	.....	3
Totals	158	13	23	34	20	33	22	13	37	30

TABLE IV.
MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1945.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	154	155
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	1
5 Diphtheria	1	—
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	4	11
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis	2	1
8 Syphilitic Diseases	—	1
9 Influenza	—	1
10 Measles	1	—
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...	—	—
12 Ac. Infant Enceph.	—	—
13 Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.)	2	3
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod.	5	2
15 Cancer of Breast	—	3
16 Cancer, other Sites	13	21
17 Diabetes	—	3
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions... ..	21	16
19 Heart Disease	39	37
20 Other Dis. Circ. Sys.	5	1
21 Bronchitis	10	7
22 Pneumonia	3	5
23 Other Resp. Diseases	3	—
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod.	2	1
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	2	—
26 Appendicitis	—	—
27 Other Digestive Diseases	4	1
28 Nephritis	4	—
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis	—	1
30 Other Maternal Causes	—	—
31 Premature Birth	3	3
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc.... ..	5	8
33 Suicide	—	1
34 Road Traffic Accidents	3	1
35 Other Violent Causes	6	8
36 All Other Causes	15	17

